Message Text

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R 162342Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6692

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01347

DEPT. PASS CEA, TREAS, FRB

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: ECON, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN INFLATION RATE CONTINUES TO MODERATE IN FEBRUARY.

- 1. SUMMARY. NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ROSE BY 8.7 PERCENT IN 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY, COMPARED WITH JANUARY RISE OF 9 PERCENT. HIGHER FOOD PRICES AGAIN HAD IMPORTANT INFLATIONARY IMPACT. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO MARCH 14 STATCAN RELEASE, NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ADVANCED BY 0.7 PERCENT BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY FROM 167.8 TO 168.9. FOOD PRICES INCREASED BY 0.7 PERCENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF OVERALL CPI INCREASE. INDEX OF NON-FOOD ITEMS, AN UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROXIMATION OF UNDERLYING RATE OF INFLATION, ROSE 0.6
PERCENT WITH HIGHER TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING PRICES PLAYING LEADING ROLE. IN TWELVE MONTHS TO FEBRUARY, CPI ROSE BY 8.7 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 9 PERCENT INCREASE IN YEAR ENDING IN JANUARY. OVER THIS PERIOD, FOOD PRICES WERE UP BY 13.4 PERCENT WHILE INDEX OF NON-FOOD ITEMS ROSE BY 6.9 PERCENT.

3. ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, CPI ROSE BY 0.5 PERCENT. INCREASE INCLUDED 0.3 PERCENT AND 0.6 PERCENT INCREASES IN INDICES OF FOOD AND NON-FOOD PRICES RESPECTIVELY. IN THREE MONTHS TO FEBRUARY, CPI ROSE AT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE OF 6.9 PERCENT COMPARED WITH 7.7 PERCENT ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE IN THREE MONTHS TO JANUARY. ENDERS

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